



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region 5/ES-TE

SEP 28 2009

Mr. Craig Stihler
West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
Post Office Box 67
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Mr. Steve Monfort
National Zoological Park
3001 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Stihler and Mr. Monfort:

Pursuant to our Regional Endangered Species Permit #TE-697823, copy enclosed, this letter authorizes Mr. Craig Stihler under the auspices of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR), to collect and transfer Virginia big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) (VBEB) across State lines from West Virginia to the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park Center for Conservation & Research Center (CRC) near Front Royal, Virginia. This permit also authorizes employees of the CRC, under the direction of Mr. Monfort, to hold VBEB that have been collected at their facility for more than 45 days. The purpose of the activities covered under this permit is to assist in recovering populations through captive holding and propagation.

Specific activities authorized under this permit include collection of up to 100 live Virginia big-eared bats from caves in West Virginia, and transport of the collected individuals to Virginia, where the bats will be held. Once in Virginia, collected bats will be held and cared-for in accordance with the enclosed project proposal entitled "Establishing a Security Population of the Virginia Big-Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park." Primary employees responsible for directing the care and husbandry of captive bats are listed in the enclosed proposal. All activities will also be conducted consistent with the enclosure Virginia big-eared bat plan for captive holding, propagation, and reintroduction. All work will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's West Virginia field office prior to initiation. This permit is contingent upon receipt of all other necessary permits, including those from the State of Virginia.

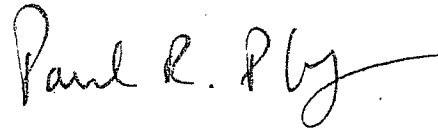
Mr. Craig Stihler
Mr. Steve Monfort

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A copy of this letter and the Regional permit #TE-697823 should accompany WVDNR and CRC staff during all collection, transport, holding, and release activities; in addition, these documents should be retained by your office as evidence of authorization. This authorization expires after 3 years or upon the conclusion of the activities specified above. Thank you for your continuing contributions to recovery of the Virginia big-eared bat.

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Hoar, at 413-253-8631.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Phifer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul R. Phifer
Assistant Regional Director
Ecological Services

Enclosures.(3)

cc: Barbara Douglas, WVFO